

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT: COUNTERFEIT UAE VISA RING

REFERENCES: (A) ABU DHABI 1729, (B) ABU DHABI 1648,
(C) STATE 130089

1. DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE OFFICERS MET WITH UAE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS SAIF MUBARAK AND MOHAMMED AL-REYAHY TO DISCUSS COUNTERFEIT UAE VISA RING.
2. MUBARAK AND REYAHY PRESENTED RESULTS THEIR INVESTIGATION AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE INCLUDING FRAUDULENT UAE REVENUE STAMPS WHICH THEY ALLEGE WERE TRACEABLE TO ALA AND ADEL FADILI. APPARENTLY MIN/INT OFFICERS DEPARTED FROM THE UAE BEFORE EMBASSY'S EXPLANATIONS OF U.S. LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON EXTRADITION HAD TIME TO SINK IN. THEY APPEARED INITIALLY TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT EXTRADITION OF FADILI BROTHERS FROM THE U.S. TO THE EMIRATES WAS POSSIBLE.

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3. JUSTICE AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS EXPLAINED, AT SOME LENGTH, NATURE OF U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM WHICH FORECLOSED EXTRADITION OF FADILI BROTHERS IN ABSENCE OF AN EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. WHILE UAE MIN/INT OFFICERS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED THAT RECIPROCAL COOPERATION ON EXTRADITION AS IN FRENDAK AND

MC PHAIL CASES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, THEY READILY ACCEPTED U.S. SIDE'S SUGGESTION TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES OF (A) DEPORTATION/DENATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FADILI BROTHERS, AND (B) PROSECUTION UNDER U.S. LAW OF THE FADILI BROTHERS.

4. DISCUSSION ENSUED IN WHICH THE POSSIBILITIES NOTED ABOVE WERE EXPLORED AT LENGTH. OFFICERS FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGREED TO LIAISE WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND REQUEST INS INVESTIGATIVE UNITS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF FRAUD WHEN FADILI BROTHERS INITIALLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES. FURTHER, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AGREED TO CAUSE FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS, PROBABLY FROM FBI, TO INTERVIEW UAE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS DURING THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES AS A FIRST STEP IN INVESTIGATION OF WHETHER FADILI BROTHERS HAD, IN FACT, BROKEN ANY U.S. LAWS BY ALLEGEDLY COUNTERFEITING UAE REVENUE STAMPS.

5. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE DISCUSSIONS WITH UAE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS WENT AS SMOOTHLY AS COULD BE EXPECTED, DEPARTMENT IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT UAE MIN/INT OFFICERS WILL MISINTERPRET U.S. GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST AS UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE RATHER THAN INABILITY TO COOPERATE UNDER U.S. LAW. THEREFORE, REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO CAREFULLY EXPLAIN TO UAE LEGAL OFFICIALS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE UAE REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF FADILI BROTHERS IN ABSENCE OF EXTRADITION CONFIDENTIAL

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TREATY. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE GOOD RELATIONS ENJOYED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, THE USG IS QUITE PREPARED TO COOPERATE, AND IN FACT, HAS BEGUN TO COOPERATE, WITH UAEG OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF FADILI BROTHERS HAVE BROKEN ANY U.S. LAW WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM LIABLE FOR PROSECUTION IN THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY CAN ASSURE UAE LEGAL OFFICIALS THAT USG WILL KEEP THEM INFORMED THROUGH THE EMBASSY OF THE PROGRESS OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS.

6. DEPARTMENT IS WEIGHING QUESTION OF EXTRADITION TREATY NOTED ABU DHABI 1729 AND WILL ADVISE FURTHER.
CHRISTOPHER

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